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U. S. Negro Leader Rebuts Ghana Attacks

By Arnold Beichman

An American Negro leader has protested "embellished charges" in Ghana that American Negro students in that West African country are alleged CIA spies.

The accusations were published in the Ghanaian Times, an Accra daily regarded as an unofficial spokesman for President Kwame Nkrumah. Neither the Times nor the Accra Daily Graphic, which has also accused American Negroes of being spies, have offered evidence to substantiate the charges.

The protest, in the form of a letter to the Ghanaian Times, was sent by Prof. John A. Davis, president of the American Society of African Culture, 15 W. 40 St. Prof. Davis is chairman of the political science department of the City College of New York.

American Negro leaders and organizations here, disturbed by the Ghanaian press statements in recent weeks, have preferred to remain silent in the hope that the Ghana press would eventually drop these charges.

April 6 editorial in the Ghanaian Times was regarded as so unwarranted by Dr. Davis that he decided silence was no longer possible.

The Ghana editorial which Dr. Davis attacked warned "our people to beware of the subversive activities of these Negro agents of neo-colonialism in our universities and colleges and elsewhere who operate with cunning and CIA villainy among our youths and unsuspecting public officers and community leaders poisoning their minds

against their governments and democratically established institutions by atrociously wicked distortion and monstrous falsehoods."

The editorial continued:

"Because of their brown, ebony or black skins, these notorious Negro agents of imperialism are easily accepted into our homes and social circles as our own brothers and sisters. But they turn out to be reptiles and conscienceless rascals engaged in espionage and playing havoc among sections of our community."

"Beware, brother, for there is an enemy at your doorstep, the Negro student spy or technical aid worker who is as equally dangerous as the peaceful looking white Peace Corps meddler or white CIA agent or embassy stooge."

Dr. Davis's letter was mailed to the Ghanaian Times on April 25. At this writing, according to Dr. Davis, it had not been published in the newspaper—"and I don't think it ever will."

The C. C. N. Y. professor, who ranks high in American Negro leadership, raised an issue in his letter which is known to reflect the sentiments of other Negroes here—their belief that Ghana and President Nkrumah himself have done little to aid the American Negro in his fight for civil liberties.

He pointed out that Mr. Nkrumah had been Dr. Davis's student in 1936 at Lincoln University and later, from 1941 to 1943, a faculty colleague at the same institution.

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